



CITY HALL PARK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

PAT Meeting

Monday, August 1, 2005, 3:00 – 4:30 PM
Tashiro – Kaplan Building
115 Prefontaine Place
Vandenbrink Room

Agenda with Meeting Notes

Present: Peggy Dreisenger, Laura Inveen, Neil Lukas, Craig Montgomery, Bud Parker, Al Poole, Amit Ranade, Fransisco Tello,

Staff and Consultants: Cheryl Fraser (Chair), B. J. Brookes, David Goldberg, Kenichi Nakano, Jerry Ernst

Other: Cydney Gillis (Real Change Newspaper)

Introductions

B. J. Brooks, Deputy Superintendent

- Downtown Open Spaces Strategy
- BJ Thanks the PAT for their commitment to the project. She described the Mayor's Downtown Initiative and the work of the Downtown Open Space Task Force. The task Force is developing recommendations regarding the management, maintenance, programming, commercial activity, and funding options and opportunities. There are two committees, Programming and Special Events, and Operations. While the Task Force is considering downtown – wide issues, the City Hall Park PAT will focus on the City Hall Park. The Task Force's work will provide resources and assist with addressing changes to current policies that may limit improvements. The Task Force Organization Chart is attached.

Consulting Team

- Nakano Associates
- Jerry Ernst

The consultant team introduced themselves and gave a brief history of their work and experience.

Project Overview

- Design Program – Scope, Schedule and Budget Considerations, David Goldberg
- David provided copies of the project design program. This documents the project elements as known at the outset. The project will have a distinct "visioning phase" where the project goals are articulated. The goals will address design, management and programming.
- Management - Cheryl Fraser
- Cheryl described the current management of the park.
- Visioning and Design steps – Kenichi Nakano and Jerry Ernst discussed their project scope and process.

Visioning Exercise

- Round Robin of ideas about the role of City Hall Park and how it might be improved to serve that role.
 1. "What is your vision for the future of City Hall Park?"
 2. "What changes would you make to the design or management of the park that would enable that vision?"

Comments

- Neil - Key to a successful park is if it is family friendly and inviting to children. There are 17 children in the Tashiro Kaplan. A bus now stops on Prefontaine Pl. European parks have fences and close for at least a short time each day. This makes it clear that it is a privilege to be in the park. People in the TK have suggested an off-leash area and a children's play area.
- Laura – Email court employees for comments (response attached). To summarize, they envisioned a clean space with no smell of urine and feces. They didn't want to displace any lawful users, but criminal activities shouldn't be present. The park should feel safe and welcome. The design should reflect the grandeur of the Courthouse.
- Craig – The park should celebrate the diversity of the community represented by the diversity of housing including, low-income, high income, artists, etc. Celebrate the area's unique assets as being an arts district as well as the area's largest historic district.
- Peggy – Create a gateway by making a flash. Recalled Tina Beuche's comment that the park is someone's backyard, and that you should be able to do things there that you would do in your backyard. The Task Force had some initial ideas including adding activities to attract people, a newsstand, excluding meal programs, think about replanting with appropriately sized trees. Consider having a "Park Ranger" who patrols park, and a zero tolerance policy for inappropriate behavior..
- Amit – Need to think of it as part of a system of downtown parks. There isn't much in or around the park that is interesting. It is a fairly central location and should be a place where you would have someone meet you for lunch or as a starting point to go somewhere else in Pioneer Square.
- Bud – Previous thoughts from King County included closing Dilling Way to connect that southern triangle to the rest of the park. Consider opening up Jefferson St to create a street frontage on the south side of the Courthouse. Fencing should be considered as should hardscape rather than grass. The County is constructing a 250,000 sf office building on the site of the current garage. This will put pressure on the buildings and parking lot to the east of the park to redevelop. There will be a lot more people in the area.
- Cheryl – Could possibly develop a large display garden.
- Francisco – Cascade Playground offers a good model. Daycare and schools in the area use the park. There are new apartments around it. City Hall Park should be a place where people tell you "you have to go there."
- Al – It should be a healthy place for homeless where they won't be perceived as a problem. It could be a sanctuary. Security such as cameras could help.

Next Steps

- Next meeting dates – August 22 (Discuss opportunities and constraints, and preliminary programming models) September 12.
- Homework Assignment – Think of stakeholders to Interview. Flesh out Vision Ideas in an email and send to David Goldberg.

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